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(*b*) from whom these engines were purchased and their price;

(*c*) whether these engines have been lying idle for a long time with the Officer;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that some time back the District Agricultural Officer issued credit note or cheques to the ryots enabling them to purchase engines required by them from private parties or concerns; and

(*e*) if so, why the said system of issuing credit note is now suspended?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Nil.

" (*b*) Does not arise.

" (*c*) Does not arise.

" (*d*) No.

" (*e*) Does not arise."

SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR :—" Are not District Agricultural Officers entrusted with the work of distributing oil engines and pumpsets to the needy ryots? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The original question was about the supply of oil engines on credit. I may tell the hon. Member that no oil engines are issued by the Department of Agriculture on credit. But oil engines are supplied under hire-purchase scheme and also under the filter-point scheme. Under the filter-point scheme, about 50 engines are allotted to the Tiruchirappalli district and under the hire-purchase scheme, 2 oil engines have been supplied to ryots in Tiruchirappalli district during 1954–55. Orders for the supply of 5 oil engines have been placed with manufacturers."

Improvements to the hospital at Manjeri.

*1391 *Q.*—SRI K. UPPI (on behalf of Sri M. Chadayan): Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether in 1954 the Government took any and if so, what steps to improve the hospital at Manjeri in Ernad taluk?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" A proposal for increasing the bed strength of the hospital was considered in connection with the Budget for 1955–56 but was deferred."

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" May I know whether the proposals were recommended by the Director of Medical Services and for what reasons the work was deferred? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" All the proposals come through the Director of Medical Services. We have provided for increase of bed-strength and for additional staff in places where buildings have been provided for extra accommodation."

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SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" In view of the fact that Manjeri is the headquarters of Ernad taluk where the population is comparatively poor and the so-called rich people can afford to have private doctors for treatment and are not generally interested in these matters, will the Government see that the bed-strength of this hospital is increased so as to help the poor peasantry of that vast taluk? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" This hospital has got a bed-strength of 45. As soon as circumstances permit, the bed-strength will be increased."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" The Hon. Minister has been pleased to tell us on a previous occasion that the improvement of taluk hospitals will be taken up immediately after the problem of improving district hospital is tackled. May I know whether under the ensuing Second Five-Year Plan the Government are going to implement that assurance? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There is a proposal to take over all taluk headquarters hospitals as early as possible."

Retrenchment of workers by Messrs. T.V.S. and Sons, Limited.

* 1392 Q.—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government received any representation from the General Secretary of the Madurai Motor Labourers' Union on 19th December 1954 regarding the dismissal of five workers by Messrs. T.V.S. and Sons, Limited; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) The representation is under the consideration of the Government."

Reconstruction of a channel from Kunthipuzha river.

* 1393 Q.—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government received any memorandum in 1954 from the people of Kumaramputhur village, Walluvanad, Malabar, regarding the construction of a channel from Kunthipuzha river at Karopadam;

(b) if so, whether any investigation was ordered and estimates prepared; and

(c) if so, what action the Government propose to take in the matter?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (a) Yes.